The Quid Novi

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Pablo Mhanna-Sandoval | 2L

Many of us take pride in being complex beings. We contain multitudes, we remind ourselves. We are blessed with human consciousness and reason which separate us from animals.

These thoughts are immediately discarded on the first sunny day of the year. It reminds us of how dependent we are on the fundamentals of life on Earth. After months of low light and early sunsets, the first walk to school featuring a blue sky and a warm sun is transformative. How embarrassingly easy it is for sunlight to improve our mood. How vulnerable we are to let ourselves be inspired by morning birdsong.

Could we not have relied on our reason to maintain this same disposition through winter? To remember that better days are coming? That we are not plants and thus shouldn't be affected by a lower level of sunlight? Shouldn't it be sufficient for us to meditate, take vitamin D pills, and get on with our lives without being dramatic?

It seems not. We are more simple than we care to admit. We love some sunlight. We are nothing when confronted by the power of spring.

As exams quickly approach, I'd like to wish my colleagues success and humbly encourage them to occasionally carve out time for a walk outside. Our lives may be complex, but we are relatively simple beings. We should take full advantage of this fact.

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March 9, 1983

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE THE LAST OF THE SEMESTER!

Don't hesitate to send your articles, overheards or poems by Friday (2024-03-29) at noon to quid.law@mcgill.ca.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

A Note from the Outgoing President

Justine Blanchette-Sirois | 4L

I regularly get the keys to my apartment and the LSA office mixed up. Is it because they have a vaguely similar shape and metal type? Perhaps. Is it because both lead to places that have come to feel like home? More likely.

To submit oneself to such a nerve-racking and demanding exercise as is a general (and very public/ized) LSA election takes a certain amount of courage and audacity. To put one's name on the ballot is to participate in and help advance a crucial part of our student life, here, at the Faculty. While it may be daunting to articulate to our peers our many ideas and suggestions on how to improve our faculty life, eight brilliant and qualified candidates did so last week, and they deserve our appreciation and recognition for their efforts and campaigns. They all brought forward genuine and thoughtful ideas drawn from reflections on their experiences and time spent at the faculty. This is the very essence of how the LSA can and should move forward; at all times reassessing and introspecting on how to best serve students through new ideas and perspectives.

Anyone who has ever spoken with me about the LSA has likely heard me say the following regarding the foundation of this type of involvement: it's not for credits, it's not for money, it's certainly not for fame and glory; so it must be a way of giving back to a community that has given us so much. After two years on the LSA's executive team, I must admit there is a selfish component to this involvement; the energy we pour into the student community comes right back around to us.

To the 2023-2024 LSA executive team: thank you for your dedication and relentless work for the students of McGill Law. I cannot put into words how much working with all nine of you has been the highlight of my week, every week.

To all candidates, I extend my warmest congratulations and most heartfelt appreciation. Your participation in last week's campaigning is no small feat. Each of you displayed remarkable leadership qualities and a genuine desire to contribute positively to our student community.

To the students who participated by voting and engaging with the campaigns, your participation in this process is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. When you exercised your right to vote, you showed deep care about the future of our student community.

To the incoming 2024-2025 LSA executive team: a journey of great responsibility and important work lies ahead, but I have no doubt that you will work tirelessly to represent student voices and aspirations. May you lead with integrity, empathy, and a genuine commitment to serving your fellow students. Embrace this opportunity with enthusiasm and dedication, knowing that you have the power to make a meaningful difference in the lives of your peers and the overall faculty community.

Ce fut un honneur profond et un plaisir infini de pouvoir servir notre communauté au cours de la dernière année. Si l'on ne se voit pas d'ici le 30 avril, ce n'est pas un adieu, mais un au revoir!

SUBMIT OVERHEARDS TO QUID.LAW@MCGILL.CA

IF YOU HEAR SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

WHY KEEP THE FUNNY THINGS YOUR PROFS AND FELLOW STUDENTS SAY ALL TO YOURSELF?
OVERHEARDS ARE LIKE SUMMARIES, YOU SHOULD SHARE THEM WITH THE REST OF THE FAC!

YOU CAN FIND OUR OVERHEARD POLICY ON FACEBOOK @QUIDLAW.MCGILL

LESSONS FROM LOSING AN ELECTION

Liam Dodge | 2L

"I would be embarrassed to lose."

I overheard someone say this in the crowd during this year's election debate where it stuck in my head rent-free and, as I looked at my own election results Sunday night, it came back to me.

Although everyone wants to win at whatever they do, I did not feel embarrassed at all nor should anyone who put themselves out there to do something worthwhile. Anything worthwhile comes with the risk of failure and if the risk of failure deters someone from not doing what they want. then that person will live with constant regret.

I cannot speak for everyone, but I can live with failure. What will keep me up at night is regret.

For anyone who has had to confront failure this year, whether it be with LSA elections, Courses aux stages or any other endeavour, know that it is going to be okay. Although you may not have gotten THE thing you were applying or looking for, you should be comforted by the following few lessons I have learnt through my experience:

1. You put yourself out there and tried your best. Most people do not take that leap of faith and, although McGill students tend to be better at putting themselves out there, it is still commendable.

2. Like I said, it is easier to live with failure than regret. Failure can be a bitter pill to swallow but a constant "what if?" will haunt you.

3. You learned something from this experience and are better off for it than you would have self-selecting yourself out or convincing yourself not to at least try.

4. One of the great, if not overwhelming, things about McGill Law is that there are too many opportunities here to dwell on failure. Failure at McGill Law just means pivoting to some other super rewarding opportunity. Coming from rural northern Canada where opportunities can be quite limited, it really is something unique that we are lucky to have here in our community.

I am immensely grateful to those who supported me in running for president of the LSA, where I am really lucky to have such amazing friends and family. It was a lot of fun running; the people made all the work worth it.

Lastly, I want to congratulate Matthew Dodds, Jean-Sébastien Léger, Emily Payne, Julius Grippo, Jessica Khoury, Tala Al Rabea, Julien Bérubé, Dylan Lamberti & Marie Jolicoeur-Becotte as the new LSA executive for next year. I also want to congratulate Pénélope Labbé for the great campaign and I wish them all the best as LSA president. I know you will all do great. Although it may seem chaotic from the outside, being on the LSA is a really rewarding experience that I am excited for you all to have next year.

As for me, this Faculty has not gotten rid of me yet; all this means is that I will have more time to see friends, get Thomson Mac & Cheese and finally get around to playing a game of pool in the basement.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Vol.3, No.21 –March 9, 1983

It looks like concerns existed even 41 years ago regarding the preservation of Old Chancellor Day Hall. These days, it's not preservation as much as restoration that comes to mind, particularly when seeing the "temporary" fencing surrounding its outdoor stairs.

LETTERS

Preserving Chancellor Day

To The Editor,

Preservation of Old Chancellor Day Hall: Some Modest Proposals to the Faculty

Old Chancellor Day Hall is a remarkable building. It is the only piece of domestic architecture in Canada by Bruce Price, one of the foremost American architects of his day and the designer of a number of the most distinguished of the CP Stations and Hotels in Canada. The Law Faculty is privileged to possess Old Chancellor Day Hall, although collectively over the years, the McGill Administration, McGill professors and McGill students have done terrible things to the fabric of the building. I am concerned that we do whatever we can within the Law Faculty to preserve this building and I would ask you to reflect on the following issues.

The floors of the upper level of the Old Chancellor Day Hall are still not entirely covered by plastic. They are made of fine wood which is susceptible to water and salt damage. Many persons, professors and students alike, but of necessity more students because of their numbers, continue to come up to professors' offices and walk on the floors of the Old Chancellor Day Hall in wet and salty overboots. I would suggest that this is a most unfortunate practice and that all of us, professors and students alike, should stop at once and for good. Take off your dirty boots!

Everyone will have noticed that the doorway to the Chancellor Day Hall is a very fine massive wooden structure set in a beautifully carved stone doorway. It was designed by the Maxwell brothers and installed in 1911. The Maxwell brothers were Montreal architects of very great and well-deserved repute. The Maxwell brothers did not design a doorway to be used and opened by 500 persons each day. The fact that it has survived since 1911 and for the last twelve years has been regularly opened many hundred of times on each week day is something of a miracle. This miracle will not last. I would ask you to reflect on whether we should not use other entrances to Old Chancellor Day Hall on a regular basis. There are different ways of approaching this problem. One would be to use different entrances, either the entrance to New Chancellor Day Hall, or the side entrance to Old Chancellor Day Hall to the right of the main door, which was done until some 12 years ago by all students. Another possibility would be to close the door entirely or to reserve its use for such distinguished persons such as the Dean or retired Deans such as F.R. Scott, or such members of the Faculty who feel absolutely unable to walk to other entrances available. If nothing is done to save this doorway we can all be assured that it will soon be replaced by a tasteful piece of modern aluminum and glass. Or perhaps something made out of plywood, if the McGill Physical Plant staff do their repairs with typical elegance.

A third problem concerns the fact that on winter days, particularly when it has snowed, students and Faculty walk in with wet and dirty boots and rapidly in the morning a large pool of water forms not outside but inside the doors. Surely something can be done about this. A little self-control, a small detour or perhaps closing the door on those days might help to preserve the fabric of the building. The present situation where one has to walk through half an inch of water is surely not desirable.

I would not be in favour of having the Dean impose a solution since I believe that all users of the building should be consulted and certainly their willing assistance is required to preserve Old Chancellor Day Hall. I do however submit to you that the preservation of Old Chancellor Day Hall is a worthy objective and I would ask all Faculty and students to give some thought to this question.

A.L.C. de Mestral

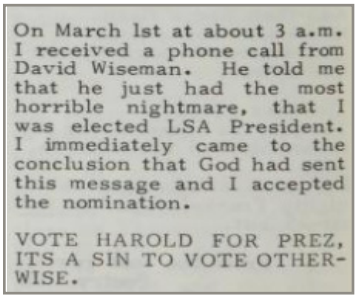
This is a Paid Political Announcement

On March 1st at about 3 a.m. I received a phone call from David Wiseman. He told me that he just had the most horrible nightmare, that I was elected LSA President. I immediately came to the conclusion that God had sent this message and I accepted the nomination.

VOTE HAROLD FOR PREZ, ITS A SIN TO VOTE OTHERWISE.

Course Evaluation Week March 14 - 18

Evaluations for 2nd Term and full year courses will be held throughout the week of March 14 - 18. Your comments and constructive criticism are always appreciated.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VOTE HAROLD FOR PREZ, ITS A SIN TO VOTE OTHERWISE.

LSA election season is certainly not new at the Faculty. It seems, however, that campaign strategies have become more conservative since the eighties.

PSA: DO *NOT* RUB YOUR EYES

What if I told you rubbing your eyes could result in needing a cornea transplant?

Anna McAllister | 3L

As with most law students, I wear glasses. I have worn them since I was 9 years old and never bothered with contacts due to their finicky nature and the potential for infection. I go to the optometrist at least every two years and have seen my prescription increase as I age. Nothing about my vision was particularly alarming or interesting.

This winter, I started to notice that my vision was getting blurrier. It had been about two years since my last visit to the optometrist, and I assumed that it was simply time for a new prescription. I am in law school after all - eye strain and worsening vision come with the territory. Or so I thought.

In January I was diagnosed with keratoconus – this was not the routine glasses change I had been prepared for. Keratoconus is an eye condition caused by weak cornea cells. Because the cornea is weak, it is prone to changing shape, thinning over time, and becoming cone-like in shape as opposed to round. For the patient, symptoms can manifest in decreased quality of vision and visual sensations like those that occur with an astigmatism. If left untreated, it can progress to blindness.

When my doctor told me I had this condition, I was very surprised. While keratoconus has an element of genetic predisposition, it has also been linked to occurring in those who rub their eyes, even without known genetic factors at play. No one in my family has this condition, and I do not consider myself someone who rubs their eyes excessively. I have worn eye makeup nearly every day since I was 15, leading me to not rub my eyes for the risk of smudging my makeup. I remove my makeup properly. I have never had an eye infection. I sleep on my side, preventing pressure on my eyes caused by stomach-sleeping. I did not seem to match any of the criteria for developing this condition. Nevertheless, I have keratoconus.

Luckily, thanks to emerging medical technology, many things can be done to ensure that keratoconus does not progress to blindness. The first is a surgery that I just underwent called corneal crosslinking. While painful, this surgery is meant to strengthen the cornea to prevent progression of the disease. Moreover, there are special contact lenses for those whose vision can no longer be corrected with standard glasses or contacts. Finally, many with keratoconus have undergone corneal transplants to have their vision restored (be sure you are signed up for organ donation – particularly for your corneas!).

Based on my experience I would like to provide the following PSAs as we enter the busiest time of the year when you may be tempted to rub your eyes after long nights spent on the computer.

1. DO NOT RUB YOUR EYES. Be consistently aware of any pressure being put on your eyes and do everything you can to minimize this.

2. Get your vision checked regularly. While the progression of keratoconus cannot be reversed, it can be stopped by undergoing corneal crosslinking. For this reason, it is very important to be on top of any vision changes to catch keratoconus early and take steps to stop progression as soon as possible. If you suspect you have keratoconus, speak up. It can be difficult to detect at a standard optometry visit and must be diagnosed using a special machine called a corneal pentacam.

3. Give your eyes breaks. As law students, we are hard on our eyes. Though I have not read any literature linking keratoconus to eye strain, eye strain can make eyes itchy and dry, leading people to be tempted to rub. Make sure to give your eyes a rest for twenty seconds, every twenty minutes, and keep artificial tears in your backpack. If allergies cause you to rub your eyes, go to your doctor and get prescribed allergy-specific eye drops to reduce incidents of rubbing.

I hope that you heed my warning and take care of your eyes this exam/allergy season!

TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT?

4 Places You Must Try Before Final Exams

Ritchie Ngieme | 1L

1. Nouilles Zhongua

Coming up at the top of the recommendation list is an unexpected gem that I discovered at the start of this semester. The atmosphere inside the restaurant is quaint and comfortable for small groups of friends. Above all else, what makes this place very special is the crafting of the noodles which customers can see directly at the restaurant's entrance. In brief, this is definitely a treat for those who are seeking a new "noodle experience" while being able to stay near campus grounds.

2. Restaurant JaKo

This restaurant is a fusion between Korean and Japanese cuisine, and it will not disappoint. Located right next to Guy-Concordia metro station, Jako provides its customers with a very traditional fine dining experience, with a wide variety of delicacies. The menu is indeed expansive and the prices are more than reasonable for such large portions. As a spicy food enthusiast, I would recommend ordering the Jeyuk Dolsot, a mix of rice, steamed vegetables, pork as well as spicy peanut butter sauce. This is the place for someone willing to fill their stomach and forget academic expectations, all for a fairly reasonable price.

3. Le Uptown

There are not enough words to express how fantastic this place is. While it usually opens in the late afternoon, I encourage everyone to experience some amazing staple dishes of Congolese cuisine. From plantains to *pondu, fufu, mikate, fumbwa*, the list is endless. It is refreshing to see such delicious foods being promoted in a culturally diverse city like Montreal. The menu also includes options for people who are unfamiliar with Congolese food, and even offers Canadian dishes with a Congolese twist (such as the *ntaba* poutine). However, the food is not the only aspect which makes Le Uptown special. On certain nights, customers have the chance to feast while listening to the rhythm of the djembe, a drum from West Africa. Alternatively, they can embrace their artistic side and get a few face paintings.

4. Caffettiera Caffé Bar

This student recommendation list would not be complete without a nice coffee shop. This place has very pleasant and colourful décor, so much so that it feels adjacent to the 1980s. The menu offers tasty coffee options, and it is the perfect place to catch up with a friend about exciting news.

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Toute contribution doit indiquer le nom de l'auteur, son année d'étude ainsi qu'un titre et un sous -titre pour l'article. Les images doivent être soumises séparément. L'article ne sera publié qu'à la discrétion du comité de rédaction, qui basera sa décision sur la politique de rédaction disponible sur notre Facebook @quidnovi.mcgill.